

FedEx
 Federal Express

The World On Time
**PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS
AND FREIGHT WORLDWIDE**
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.

Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

95, Motijheel C.A, Dhaka; Tel : 9565114; Fax : 9565112


PHILIPS
Ideal gift for any occasion.

 Instalment facility available
only for purchases above Tk. 7,500

Transcom Electronics Limited

Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.

Dhaka: 815307-10 Ctg: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215

Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today



Hair Dryer

Cordless Kettle

Govt vehicles to be transformed into CNG system

The government has taken up some major decisions to transform all government and semi-government vehicles into CNG system immediately in the initial phase to contain air pollution in the city, reports BSS.

Six more new CNG filling stations will be set up at different places of the city including the central transport pool. Four CNG filling stations are now in operation in the city.

The execution of the government ban on import of leaded fuel, encouraging import of lead free petrol, reduction of sulfur in diesel, and introduction of catalytic converter are the other decisions to check air pollution by automobiles.

The decisions were taken at a meeting at the conference room of the Environment and Forest Ministry with its Secretary Syed Margub Murshed in the chair.

Representatives from the ministry of finance, BRTA, BRTC, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, CNG Gas Ltd., and Transport pool were present in the meeting.

The meeting asked the authorities concerned to prepare a status report on various problems following marketing of lead contained fuel oil by Eastern Refinery, country's only petroleum products processing unit.

The meeting also decided to immediately take up a comprehensive master plan for preservation of water of river Buriganga, Sitalakhy and Karnaphuli rivers and issuance of no-objection certificate (NOC) on environment.

BNP condemns torture on arrested leaders
By Staff Correspondent.

BNP Dhaka City convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka yesterday condemned the alleged torture on some of the party leaders in the jail *hajat*.

In a statement, he alleged that BNP Dhaka City convenor and word commissioner Abdul Latif, and leaders Abdul Aziz and Mujibur Rahman were being tortured in the jail.

Demanding immediate release of the leaders, Khoka also protested the arrest of Yaqub Mohammad Lal, a BNP Betagi Thana unit leader.

Khoka said that the government has resorted to repression after it became alienated, from the people.

Bangla Academy confers fellowship on 5 personalities
By Staff Correspondent

Bangla Academy has conferred fellowship on five noted personalities this year for their outstanding contribution in their respective fields, a press release said yesterday.

The fellows are: Prof Khan Sarwar Murshed, A N M Gazil Hq. Prof A F M Salahuddin Anwar, Barin Majumdar and Anwar Rahman Sarker.

Bangla Academy has so far awarded fellowship to 33 persons for their outstanding contributions in art, culture, literature, philosophy and social welfare.

The fellowship will be given at the annual general meeting of the academy on November 26, the press release added.

Ekushey
From page 1

proud as Ekushey February has been glorified internationally.

Meanwhile, Bangla Academy authorities today decided to place wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city on November 21 at 10:30 am in observance of the UNESCO declaration.

Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Association, Bangladesh Government Secondary Teachers' Association and Sylhet Bibighan Unnayan Parishad issued statements congratulating the UNESCO for its decision.

UNB adds: Acting president of Bangladesh Awami League Amir Hossain Anwar in a statement yesterday said UNESCO's decision has reflected the world community's acknowledgment of the sacrifice of language movement martyrs as well as the Bengalee nation for the cause of Mother tongue.

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia thanked UNESCO for declaring February 21 as International Mother Language Day.

In a statement she said, "The acknowledgment is a great pride for our nation and it is also an instance of paying tribute to the sacrifice of Salim, Rafiq, Jabbar and other martyrs."

Jamaat Ameer Prof Golam Azam hailed the UNESCO for decision and said the entire nation is glad today.

Meghnaghat Power Project Site developer fails again to meet deadline

By Sharier Khan

The 450 MW Meghnaghat Power Project faces yet another crisis as the site developer failed for the third time to complete its work as per schedule, sources concerned said.

Until the site is properly developed, construction work for the project by US company AES cannot be started. Implementation of the project is already nearly two years behind the original schedule.

Chinese land developer CWHEC, which was awarded the Tk 141 crore contract for site development under special consideration of government high ups, was supposed to complete its work by November 15. But till date, the work is far from completion, the sources added.

To make things worse, the foreign consultant of the land development project, who is supposed to certify the work of

CWHEC, has been from the country since August 20.

As per the last revised work schedule, set by the Power Development Board (PDB) which is supervising the whole project, CWHEC should have given a notice to the authorities for inspection 15 days before the deadline for handing over of the project site. But the Chinese company did not give any such notice.

Besides, PDB sources said the quality of site development work was far below expectation. However, it was up to the project consultant to evaluate and comment on CWHEC's job.

This delay in land development may lead PDB to pay a fine of 10,000 US dollars per day to AES till the site is handed over to it. PDB would fine CWHEC the same amount for the delay.

Originally, CWHEC was

scheduled to complete the work by late July this year. But as it failed to do so, PDB told AES that the land could not be handed over to it before September due to inefficiency of CWHEC.

AES said that in case of delay, PDB should pay a fine of 10,000 dollars per day as per contractual provisions. However, at the request of the government, AES agreed to provide a "cushion" to PDB till September.

As CWHEC again failed to keep the schedule, PDB told AES earlier this month that the site could not be handed over before November. AES then argued that the delay had already affected its economics and it may have to increase the levelised power-tariff due to this.

Finally, at the request of the government, AES had agreed to take the project site on November 15.

Suspension of 4 magistrates angers administrative officers

Some 500 administrative officers yesterday vented their anger over suspension of four magistrates by the Election Commission for negligence of duty during the recent by-polls in Tangail-8 parliamentary constituency.

The officials at a meeting at the Administrative Service Association Office at BIAN Bhaban in the city put pressure on the Association leaders to take up the matter.

One of the magistrates, preferring anonymity, told UNB that the four magistrates who were on duty at four centres on the election day were in no way responsible for the irregularities in the voting, which they were charged with.

"Magistrates and police were posted in the polling centres to look into law and order and not the voting. Voting is conducted by presiding officers," he said protesting punitive action ordered by the Election Commission.

The leaders of the Association announced that they would submit memorandums to the Chief Election Commissioner, establishment, cabinet secretaries and the principal secretaries to the Prime Minister, on Sunday.

The officials will hold a meeting later in the evening on the day at BIAN Bhaban to chalk out their next course of action against the "illegal" suspension order.

The officials said the EC constituted a judicial inquiry committee to probe complaints about 19 polling centres including those four, but the axe fell on the four magistrates before any investigation.

EC directive
File departmental cases against suspended presiding officers, magistrates

The appointing authorities have been asked to file departmental cases against the magistrates and presiding officers, suspended from their services for negligence of duties during by-election in Tangail on November 15, reports UNB.

The Election Commission has issued the directive under Sub-Clauses 1, 2 and 4 of clause 5 of the Election Officials (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, said an official announcement in the city yesterday.

Earlier, on Wednesday, the full commission of EC comprising the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners suspended the magistrates and the presiding officers from their services for two months for negligence of discharging election duties.

The order of suspension will be considered under the service rules," the EC decision said adding that they were suspended for misdemeanour under Sub-clause 3 of Clause 5 of the Election Officials Act.

The EC release yesterday also announced the names of suspended officials saying some irregularities took place in four centres during the November 15 by-elections due to negligence and irregularities in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

The suspended magistrates and presiding officers are: Centre: Boali Government Primary School. Magistrate: Khan M Nurul Amin, Assistant Commissioner, Madaripur Collectorate. See Page 11 Col 4

Khaleda, Jamaat leaders discuss issues
By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at a meeting with three top leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and two senior leaders of her party last night discussed various issues relating to the current anti-government movement and the planned meeting of chiefs of the four component parties of the opposition alliance, sources concerned said.

The meeting held at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament was attended by Jamaat Secretary General Mafizur Rahman Nizami, assistant secretary general Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and publicity secretary Abdul Kader Mollah, BNP Vice Chairman M Shamsul Islam and the Chairperson's press advisor Anwar Zahid.

The leaders who attended the meeting declined to give details of the discussion.

A Jamaat leader, who wanted to not to be named, said the four top leaders' meeting would take place shortly but the date was yet to be finalised.

"Discussion is now going on for finalisation of a joint declaration, date and venue of the meeting," he added.

Y2K glitch: Ctg, Mongla ports yet to take steps
By Mustak Hossain

Bangladesh's two largest sea ports are still vulnerable to the millennium bug, despite government reminders to fix the problem before the December 31 deadline.

Serajul Huq, deputy director of the government's Y2K cell, said they requested updates from Chittagong and Mongla on their Y2K status several months back, but got a poor response from both.

"The Y2K cell of Bangladesh Computer Council is yet to get any response from the country's main Chittagong Port Authority regarding their millennium glitch preparedness," said Huq last week.

"Mongla Port Authority send us some information but the CPA are yet to send us information regarding their status."

"We (the Y2K Cell) have send

US embassy clarification on Holzman's remarks

The US Embassy in Dhaka has clarified a press report about Ambassador Holzman's request to BNP for not calling hartal on December 2, the National Immunization Day, reports UNB.

A USIS press release yesterday said, in order to allow necessary transportation of vaccines and medical personnel, the Ambassador requested the BNP leader not to call hartals on December 2 and two days before and after this date to allow the immunization day to proceed without obstruction.

"This meeting came as a follow-up of an October 27 letter that Ambassador Holzman sent to the secretaries general of the BNP, the Jatiya Party, and the Jamaat-e-Islami requesting them not to disrupt the success of National Immunization Day by calling hartals," the release added.

SC restores poll symbol 'Plough' to Ershad-led JP

The Supreme Court yesterday restored the election symbol 'Plough' to Jatiya Party led by HM Ershad, reports UNB.

The order of the Appellate Division came on an appeal by the Jatiya Party against the decision of a Division Bench of the High Court allowing Muttasim Billah of Jatiya Party headed by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury to contest a by-election with 'Plough' symbol, said a press release.

Barrister Rafiqul Haq appeared for the petitioner.

Zia, Manzoor
From page 1

capture state power through coup, killing and conspiracies. These quarters know that an elected government cannot be ousted through hartals and agitations but they have been inspired by the recent military coup in Pakistan, he said.

BMA polls
From page 1

said polling stations in Narail, Kurigram, Munshiganj and Netrakona conducted an open ballot, violating election rules.

In Dhaka, voting seriously disrupted traffic when the road outside the BMA bhaban was blocked without any public notice. Hundreds of motorists were stuck on both side of National Press Club, which is located on the opposite side of the road, while the election proceeded.

The Jatiya Sangsad seats in

One to die for killing woman
NETROKONA, Nov 18: A court here today sentenced one person to death for killing a woman, reports UNB.

Court sources said Durgesh Chandra Das, son of Dinesh Chandra Das of village Kadamsree in Madan thana, was given the capital punishment for killing Meena, wife of Dilip Shah of village Satpal in the same thana on June 25 in 1995.

Durgesh, an employee of Dilip's typewriting shop, stabbed Meena to death when she refused to give him loan. Examining all records and witnesses, the judge AKM Istiaq Hossain found Durgesh guilty of the killing and pronounced the verdict.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offering fateha at the holy Rowza of Prophet Mohammad (SM) at Madina yesterday.

Dhaka should oppose any new round of trade talks

Seminar on GATT in city told

Star Report

Speakers at a seminar yesterday unanimously agreed that Bangladesh should oppose any new round of trade negotiations unless commitments made so far by the WTO members in the Uruguay Round Agreement and the subsequent WTO ministerial meetings are implemented.

They said during the Uruguay Round, most of the developing countries were unaware of the consequences of the negotiations and at the end of the day signed agreements "as mere spectators".

The seminar, "GATT, Liberalisation and Bangladesh Trade" was organised by Integrated Community and Industrial Development (INCIDIN) Bangladesh, a research and advocacy agency, at the CIRDP auditorium in the city. Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Secretary General of Workers Party Rashed Khan Menon and former finance minister Abul Mal Abdul Muhit were among others who spoke at the seminar, chaired by Professor Rehman Sobhan.

The developed countries highlighted differences that existed among them and finally approached the LDCs who were not allowed to hammer on their demands, said Professor Rehman Sobhan.

He suggested Bangladesh, being a member of SAARC, come forward with a group of actions within the framework of SAARC.

"This is because it involves issues which effect a large number of people, future of industries and industrialisation in the country."

He said Bangladesh was not prepared for the first round of negotiations and therefore failed to take advantages which were there.

It opened up the economy too fast when there were no pressure to dismantle the tariff barrier. "But we could have taken much advantage had we gone through negotiations. India did not do it at the same pace and could take much more advantage."

"Bangladesh could not undo the past but will be responsible for what happens in future," said the eminent economist.

Tofail Ahmed said most of the LDCs were frequently shifting their positions as they were busy trying to negotiate their own interest.

He said ahead of the Millennium Round in Seattle on November 30, the G-77 met in Beirut where there were a consensus on opposing second round of negotiations without assessing the commitments of the Uruguay Round.

"But later we found many had shifted from their positions as everyone is trying to take advantage of the Millennium Round."

Tofail said that a day before the ministerial meeting he was trying to organise a meeting of the LDCs to discuss their problems.

He said implementation of commitments made so far by the WTO members in the Uruguay Round Agreement and subsequent WTO ministerial meetings, where differential and special treatment to LDCs for market access, trade capacity building, technical assistance and debt relief were promised; duty-free market ac-

cess of the LDCs' products to developed countries and free movement of manpower or 'natural humans' around the globe will top Bangladesh's agenda.

He also said that Bangladesh would only push for "built-in agendas" which were already there and oppose fresh issues.

He, however, cautioned that it would not be possible for Bangladesh to oppose everything, but it would definitely try to play its due role.

Rashed Khan Menon said being a member of parliament, he like others was not aware of the agreements which were being signed. "All on a sudden, we were handed 22,000 pages of WTO agreement."

He said the Cabinet had forwarded it to them and they had to accept it. "In academic level, we were not aware (of the agreement) whereas in India there were lots of talks and debates."

Menon said the developed nations were trying to impose new issues like environment, social changes and labour standards on the LDCs although the case should have been the other way round.

He said the developed nations were not ready to open up their market for the LDCs while they wanted to enter markets of the developing countries.

"So Bangladesh should not go into new round of negotiations without pressing for implementation of the previous ones," Menon said.

M Masud Rahman, executive director of INCIDIN Bangladesh, later presented a key note paper.

Poet Sufia Kamal hospitalised

Poet Begum Sufia Kamal was shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) hospital from her Dhanmondi residence yesterday afternoon as her condition deteriorated, reports BSS.

Doctors at the BSMMU said the poet is suffering from old-age complications as well as chronic renal failure.

Nine precious statues for Nat'l Museum

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Rifles yesterday handed over nine touchstone statues to the National Museum. The statues were recovered from smugglers operating along the country's western border.

Crafted for ceremonial purposes between the 6th and the 11th Century, the statues, which weigh almost 56 kilograms include Lord Vishnu and Swaraswati.

Director General of BDR General Azizur Rahman handed over the statues, recovered over the last six months from the bordering areas of Rajshahi and Khulna, to Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan, DG of the museum.

According to government stock book, a kilogram of the black touchstone is worth about Tk one lakh.

However, some pieces are worth much more, depending on the quality of the workmanship and the piece's overall appeal.

Officials estimate these statues are worth several crore taka.

Officials said people often find such statues in the ponds sprinkled throughout the Rajshahi region. Many living in the country's posh areas possess such statues, said a museum official.

A rifle's official said smugglers ship the statues to dealers Calcutta and Rangoon, from where they are being smuggled into the West.

BCL-police clash in Jhalokathi: 8 injured
BARISAL, Nov 18: At least eight people were injured in a clash between activists of BCL and police in Jhalokathi today during submitting a memorandum to the local Deputy Commissioner, reports UNB.

Police said BCL and Jubo League activists tried to ransack the DC office while submitting the memorandum demanding release of former district BCL general secretary Abu Sayeed.

Police arrested Sayeed on charge of terrorism and toll collection in the area Thursday night.

Police fired 9 rounds of rubber bullet and lobbed five tear-gas shells to disperse the unruly BCL activists.

170 killed in Chechnya
GROZNY, Russia, Nov 18: Some 170 people died in multiple missile strikes on Grozny and Urus-Martan southwest of the Chechen capital yesterday, the Chechen military press centre said today, reports AFP.

20 candidates for 3 by-elections

Five candidates will contest the by-elections in Rajshahi-5 constituency, six in Sirajganj-7 and nine in Kishoreganj-1.

By-polls in the three constituencies will be held on December 8, reports UNB.

The Election Commission announced names of the candidates yesterday, the last day for withdrawal of candidature.

After withdrawals, candidates for the by-polls are: Rajshahi-5, Prof Abdur Razzak, Dr M Alauddin, M Abdul Gafur Shah, Maulana Siddique Rahman and M Nurul Islam.

Sirajganj-7: A Hy Gazi M Abdul Mohaimen, M Ismail Hossain, M Choyon Islam, Sheikh Babul Hossain and Hasibur Rahman Swapan.

Kishoreganj-1: Prof Syed Ahammad, Krishak M Sadek, Dr Alauddin Ahmed, M Alamgir Hymayun Reza, M AB Siddique, M Jahangir Alam, M Fazlur Rahman, M Monirul Haq Monir and Sangbadik Molla Saidur Rahman.

The Jatiya Sangsad seats in

Rajshahi and Sirajganj fell vacant as membership of Dr M Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman Swapan from BNP were cancelled for floor-crossing. Both Dr M Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman have got Awami League tickets.

In Kishoreganj, the seat fell vacant following the death of AL MP AKM Shamsul Haq Golap Mia. The ruling party candidate for the seat is Dr Alauddin Ahmed.

Khulna-Benapole commuter train to start running Nov 23

The third commuter train of Bangladesh Railway (BR) will start running between Khulna and Benapole on November 23, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain is expected to inaugurate the commuter service at Benapole station, a BR press release said yesterday.

The opening of the train service was a long cherished demand of the people of Khulna. The train will run twice a day between the two destinations and will touch Nawapara, Jessore, Jikorgasa and Navaron. The train will leave Khulna at 7.20 am and 2 pm while it will start from Benapole at 10.15 am and 5.30 pm, the release added.

Prayer Timings
November 1

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-40
Juma	12-20	1-15
Asr	3-55	4-10
Maghrib	5-20	5-25
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from reputed local advertising companies to produce a documentary film on arsenic issue in Bangladesh. The duration of the film should be limited to 10-15 minutes highlighting that the presence of arsenic contaminated water in some areas of the country is not affecting any exportables of Bangladesh especially frozen fish and fresh fruits and vegetables. The film should be in English and may be dubbed in German. Primarily the film would be shown in Expo-2000 in Hannover, Germany during June 01-31 October, 2000.

02. Interested companies are requested to submit their complete proposal in sealed cover stating the different ideas and brief outline, sketches about the film. Separate sealed envelope should be submitted for the financial offer. Last date for submission of proposal is 29-11-99 (up to 3.00 PM). For any further enquiry, please contact the undersigned:

Faridul Hassan
Director (Fairs & Display)
Export Promotion Bureau
122-124, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
Tel: 9552245-49, 9568029

DFP-25547-15/11 G-1994

Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 62 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 8616772-4, Commercial: 8616771, Fax No: 88-02-8613035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net